

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, and 20 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found at least at page 7, 12-19, page 7, line 28 to page 8, line 13, page 9, lines 6-9, page 9, lines 18-22, page 10, line 15 to page 11, line 3, page 12, line 22 to page 13, line 5, and page 14, line 17 of the specification. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks that follow are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

On page 2 the Office Action rejects claims 4, 7, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 4, 7, 8, and 15 have been amended to more precisely recite the novel features of the claims. The feature of “computing a default target node list from default nodes that are selected by the user” is described at least at page 14, line 17 and page 13, line 26-27 of the specification. In addition, the specification describes, at page 7, lines 12-19, page 7, line 28 to page 8, line 13, and page 9, lines 6-9, a SCM authorization model that assigns to a user the ability to run a set of tools on a set of nodes based on the roles assigned to the user. The specification further describes, at page 10, lines 25-27, that when a user launches a tool, the SCM determines an identity of the user and establishes environment variables, so that only certain nodes can be accessed by this user. Accordingly, a default target node list can be computed based on roles assigned to the user. One skilled in the art will be able to make and use the inventive features recited in the claims. Withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 3 the Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 9, 14-16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,070,190 to Reps et al. (hereafter Reps) in view of U.S. Patent 6,338,112 to Wipfel et al. (hereafter Wipfel). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Reps is directed to a method, system and program product for monitoring, from a client computer system, the performance of an application program residing on a server computer system. As described at column 11, lines 47-51, an end-user selects a single node for which monitoring is desired. Nowhere does Reps disclose or suggest establishing a target node list that contains nodes against which the MSA tool can execute by computing the target nodes list, using an authorization model that assigns a user the ability to run tools on nodes based on the roles assigned to the user.

In contrast to Reps, the method recited in claim 1 does not merely monitor an application program residing on a server, but instead executes programs on a central

computer/server and *provides* a list of target nodes against which the MSA program executes. Specifically, amended claim 1 recites: “establishing a target node list that contains nodes against which the MSA tool can execute, the establishing step comprising: obtaining a list of target nodes and a tool definition from a runnable tool, wherein the tool definition specifies roles associated with a tool via an authorization model, and wherein the roles define which management functions a user can perform on target nodes associated with the SCM cluster; and computing the target node list that contains expanded node groups and nodes that the user is able to access based on one or more roles assigned to the user” (emphasis added).

These features are not disclose or suggest by Reps.

Wipfel is directed to methods, systems, and devices for managing resources in a computing cluster. However, Wipfel does not cure Reps reference’s defect and does not disclose or suggest the above features as recited amended claim 1. Therefore, claim is allowable over Reps and Wipfel.

Claims 2-5 and 9 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite.

Regarding claim 14, for the same reason as noted above with respect to claim 1, Reps and Wipfel, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest “a module for establishing a target node list that contains nodes against which the MSA tool can execute, the establishing module comprising: a module for obtaining a list of target nodes and a tool definition from a runnable tool, wherein the tool definition specifies roles associated with a tool via an authorization model, and wherein the roles define which management functions a user can perform on target nodes associated with the SCM cluster; and a module for computing the target node list that contains expanded node groups and nodes that the user is able to access based on one or more roles assigned to the user,” as recited in amended claim 14. Accordingly, amended claim 14 is patentable.

Claims 15-16 and 18-19 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 14 and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 14-16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 8 the Office Action rejects claims 6-8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Reps in view of Wipfel and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,487,590 to Foley et al. (hereafter Foley). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Foley is directed to a method for controlling a network element from a client at a remote work station connectable to the network. The network element is registered for attributes to be tracked, and attributes associated with the network element are polled only if

the client requests the monitoring of the network element. However, Foley does not cure Reps reference's defect and does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claims 1 and 14. Claims 1 and 14 are allowable over Foley. Claims 6-8 and 17 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims 1 and 14, respectively, and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

On pages 10 and 13 the Office Action rejects claims 10-13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Reps in view of Wipfel and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,502,131 to Valid et al. (hereafter Valid). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Valid is directed to a method and system for monitoring or profiling quality of service within one or more information sources in a network of computers. However, Valid does not cure Reps reference's defect and does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over Valid. Claims 10-13 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

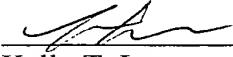
Regarding claim 20, for the same reason as noted above with respect to claim 1, Reps, Wipfel and Valid, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "establishing a target node list that contains nodes against which the MSA tool can execute ... the establishing step comprising: obtaining a list of target nodes and a tool definition from a runnable tool, wherein the tool definition specifies roles associated with a tool via an authorization model, and wherein the roles define which management functions a user can perform on target nodes associated with the SCM cluster; and computing the target node list that contains expanded node groups and nodes that the user is able to access based on one or more roles assigned to the user," as recited in amended claim 20. Accordingly, amended claim 20 is patentable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 27, 2004


Kelly T. Lee
Registration No. 47,743
Andrews Kurth LLP
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. (202) 662-2736
Fax (202) 662-2739